

Hoopsters Rout Holbrook To Reach State Play

By Steve MacQuarrie

It was a typical basketball event: radio broadcasters at courtside, a near capacity crowd, vocal and jubilant; the ceremonial removal of the net at the end of the game.

What was hardly typical was the site — Sullivan Gymnasium — and the occasion — Cohasset High's qualifying for the state tournament. But that was the scene last Friday night following the Skippers' 90-63 rout of Holbrook, a scene which was made possible by a 67-61 win over Hull three nights earlier.

You have to go back to 1972 to find the last time a Cohasset quintet qualified for post-season play. Before that nobody at CHS knows. Perhaps in the days of the old Osgood High School. More likely never.

Coach John LeVangie's crew was expecting a closer game from Holbrook, but the absence of the Bulldogs' 6'4" Ted Nuby deprived Holbrook of all their height. No shrinking violets, the Skippers took advantage of their height advantage to put the game out of reach by halftime. Explosive has been the best description of Cohasset's offense this year and the Skippers put on their finest offensive show of the season, riding streaks of 5-0, 10-0, and 13-0 to 47-26 intermission lead.

As they have all season, seniors Brian Keating, Paul Farren, and Matt Salerno were the scoring leaders, combining for 29 first half points. Overall, the Skippers placed four players in double figures — Salerno (17), Farren (15), Keating (11), and junior Mark Goff (10).

Hull was a much tougher opponent, thanks in part to the Cohasset coach. "I coached all the Hull kids when I was the junior varsity coach there up until two years ago," replied LeVangie. "In fact, we won the South Shore League JV championship with virtually this same group in 1977."

Determination has characterized the Cohasset team this year, and Hull showed that LeVangie must have instilled some determination in the Pirate players too, as they

rallied again and again throughout the game. The Skippers led 8-2 in the first quarter, before Hull tied the score at 14. Another Cohasset lead of 22-16 in the second quarter dissolved into a 28-28 tie. A two-point Skipper lead early in the third period became a three-point deficit three minutes later. And in the fourth quarter Hull sliced a 63-55 Cohasset lead down to 63-61 before Salerno finally put Hull out of Cohasset's misery with four points in the final nine seconds.

Salerno finished the game with 21 points, his highest of the season. The senior co-captain was ably abetted by guard John Howley, whose 14 points were also a personal high.

As difficult a task as qualifying for the state tournament may have seemed in November, a piece of the South Shore League championship was considered even more improb-

able. Yet the Skippers still have a chance to tie for first as they complete their season Friday night.

A win at home over Duxbury, coupled with a Middleboro loss to Hull would produce Cohasset's first league

championship ever. And the scene in Sullivan Gym would make last Friday's look like a wake.



FINE FINALISTS — Cohasset High wrestlers who gained the finals in the recent Marshfield invitational tournament are, from left, Rick Hobston, 157 pound class; Tod Langford, 187 and Dave Duncombe, 114.

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